

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 06800 292224Z
ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, CG
SUBJECT: MAES CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION (SENATOR CRANSTON)

REF: A) STATE 154379, B) KINSHASA 1556

1. ACCORDING TO M. LAMBILOTTTE, THE COUNSELOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL PROPERTY AFFAIRS WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAES CASE, A COMPLETE REPORT ON THE BACKGROUND OF THE CASE, TOGETHER WITH SURVEY DOCUMENTS AND DEEDS, HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF REAL PROPERTY AFFAIRS IN ANTICIPATION OF HIS SCHEDULED MEETING MARCH 15, 1978, WITH MAES' LAWYER, FRANK EVANS. THE COMMISSIONER IS THE AUTHORITY WHO MUST DECIDE WHETHER THE MAES FAMILY HAS A RIGHT TO COMPENSATION AND TO RECOMMEND TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY THAT COMPENSATION PAYMENTS BE MADE. WHEN EVANS DID NOT KEEP THE APPOINTMENT, THE COMMISSIONER RETURNED THE FILE TO HIS COUNSELOR WITHOUT MAKING ANY DECISION.

2. SPECIAL FUND SET UP BY BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, MENTIONED PARA 3 REF A, IS ONLY FOR BELGIAN CITIZENS WHO ARE ON WELFARE AND WHOSE CLAIMS WERE ADJUDICATED IN ZAIRIAN LEGAL SYSTEM.

3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT EVANS WRITE THE COMMISSIONER DIRECTLY, PREFERABLY IN FRENCH, TO APOLOGIZE FOR MISSING
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APPOINTMENT AND TO REQUEST THAT THE DECISION BE MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE MAES FAMILY HAS A RIGHT TO COMPENSATION. IN VIEW OF UNCERTAINTY OF INTERNATIONAL MAILS, EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO DELIVER LETTER. ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR GEORGE MAES TO HIRE A LOCAL ATTORNEY WHO COULD PURSUE THIS CASE ON A CONTINUAL BASIS. HOWEVER, MAES SHOULD BE REMINDED OF WARNINGS LISTED PARA 2 REF B, THAT EVEN IF KIT IS DECIDED THAT

MAES FAMILY HAS RIGHT TO COMPENSATION, THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION COULD BE VERY SMALL AND PAYMENTS WOULD BE IN LOCAL CURRENCY. THERE ARE NO PROVISIONS FOR PAYMENT WITH COMMODITIES.
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